

Jeep tour Armenia – Georgia

Key information

Duration: 13 days / 12 nights

Best season: June - September

Tour type: Small group / individual (starting from 2 persons)

What's included:

airport transfers, accommodation in hotels 12 nights (double rooms), meals – breakfast, 1 bottle of water per day (0.5lt.), english speaking guide, all admissions fees, 24-hour office support, 4-wheel drive vehicle with experienced English speaking guide driver

What's not included:

flights, visa fee, medical insurance

Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival - Yerevan City Tour - Matenadaran - Genocide memorial

Day 2 - Amberd Fortress - Saghmosavank Monastery - Harichavank Monastery - Gyumri City Tour

Day 3 - Armenia-Georgia border - Vardzia - Akhaltsikhe

Day 4 - Abastumani - Zekari Pass - Sairme - Kutaisi

Day 5 - Enguri dam - village Becho - Mestia

Day 6 - Ushguli - Lamaria Church - Queen Tamar's Tower - Mestia

Day 7 - Martvili monastery - Kutaisi

Day 8 - Mtskheta - Tbilisi City Tour

Day 9 - Armenia-Georgia border - Goshavank Monastery - Sevan Lake - Gosh Lake - Sevanavank Monastery

Day 10 - Selim Pass - Fortress of King Smbat - Sisian

Day 11 - Tatev Monastery - "Tatev Wings" ropeway - Old Khndzoresk village - Zorats Karer - Sisian

Day 12 - Ukhtasar Mountain - "Areni" Wine Factory - Yerevan

Day 13 - Departure



Detailed itinerary

Day 1

Arrival to airport, transfer to hotel. Short city tour in the city (depends on your arrival time). You will have chance to admire at city from the birds fly from the area at Mother Armenia statue. Time depending visit to Matenadaran Depository of more than 17000 unique manuscripts, it's know Matenadaran holds the third largest collection in the world (*optional € 5 per person*). Continue to Genocide memorial, solemn monument of the first massacre of the 20th century. Evening waking tour in the city, State Opera House, Cascading step stairs with nice park, Republic square, North Avenue filled with cheerful local will make you love this city.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*

Day 2

After breakfast at the hotel you will have short briefing on the tour, board Toyota land cruisers and will drive to the North to the highest mountain of Armenia Aragats (4090 m) to visit Amberd Fortress a midcentury fort-city built during the 10th century. You will enjoy the landscape surrounding the fortress and alpine flowers near the fortress and on the wings of Aragats. Then you will have lunch. After lunch you will visit Saghmosavank Monastery built in 125 by the Noble Vache Vachutian. Leaving the monastery, you will drive to the North-East towards Gyumri, which is the second city in Armenia visiting on the way Artik town rich with the monuments of Armenian culture. Here you will visit Harichavank Monastery built in 1201 and situated in the village of the same name in the Shirak district, on a cape formed by shallow ravines and the rivers flowing in them. Leaving the monastery, you will continue your way to Gyumri. After accommodation in the hotel in Gyumri you will have short city tour visiting the most interesting places and sights in one of the oldest cities in Armenia, which is also famous place for its historical-cultural traditions, strong art and crafts, education and also by film making industry (a lot of films were produced in Gyumri).

Overnight: *Hotel in Gyumri*

Meals: *B*

Day 3

After breakfast at the hotel you will drive to Armenia- Georgia border. After passing the border you will drive to lake Paravani. Your next stop will be in cave town of Vardzia. This facinating town of multi-storied cave dwellings with streets, tunnels and stairs leading to monasteries, temples, fortresses, baths, libraries and s Then you will continue your trip to Akhaltsikhe where you will have rest and overnight. (*Total length 222 km*)

Overnight: *Hotel in Akhaltsikhe*

Meals: *B*

Day 4

After your breakfast you will drive to Abastumani, which is a small town and climatic spa with hot springs and astronomical observatory. After your road will continue to Zekari high mountain pass which is at an elevation of 2226 meters above the sea level. Here you can admire stunning views of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains, clearings, hills and small shepherd huts. Then you will drive to the health resort Sairme. This place has the unique location, healing springs, ecologically clean environment and beautiful nature. It is located in the mountainous area of subtropical zone. Your final stop in this day will be in Kutaisi. (*Total length 121 km ,40 km off road*)

Overnight: *Hotel in Kutaisi*

Meals: *B*



Day 5

After breakfast in the hotel, you will start the Mountain road journey to Mestia – very picturesque way along the Enguri River. It takes about four hours to get to Mestia. On the way you will visit Enguri dam, the highest one in Europe (274 m). In most cases you will drive on ground roads among cliffs and narrow canyons of roaring Enguri River and waterfalls. You will drive to the little village Becho and from there make short stop under Guli Glacier. On the way you will visit little churches in villages Latali and Lenjeri with excellent 10th-12th frescoes. The route follows right bank of the river, from where you will observe magnificent Ushba peak. You will drive on narrow tracks through coniferous and mixed forests. *(Total length 270 km off road)*

Overnight: Hotel in Mestia

Meals: B

Day 6

A three-hour drive will take you to the highest permanent village in Europe – Ushguli. Ushguli and generally the whole Upper Svaneti region is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The village is most famous for its abundance of watchtowers and this is where you get the view of the highest mountain in Georgia – Mt. Shkhara. In Ushguli you will visit Lamaria Church (12th century) and then walk up the hill to Queen Tamar’s Tower. In the evening you will be back to Mestia for rest and overnight. *(Total length 94 km off road)*

Overnight: Hotel in Mestia

Meals:

B

Day 7

This day you will drive to Martvili monastery - early medieval monastery complex, which is built on a high hill and overlooks almost the whole Imereti and Samegrelo. The site where the monastery stands today was used in ancient times as a pagan cultural center and was a sacred site. You will also see Martvili canyon which used to be a bath place for Dadiani family. Here you can enjoy the scenery, its waterfalls and take a boat trip in the river with deep green color and also taste excellent Ojasheli wine. In the evening you will drive to Kutaisi for rest and overnight. *(Total length 270 km asphalt)*

Overnight: Hotel in Kutaisi

Meals: B

Day 8

On the last day in Georgia you will drive to a small and colorful town Mtskheta. This town was the first capital of Georgia from 3rd century BC to the 5th century AD. The excursion will start with the visit to the Cathedral of the 11th century – Svetitskhoveli. The next stop – Jvari Temple located at the top of the hill which offers a fascinating view of the confluence of two rivers Kura and Aragvi. Then you will drive to Tbilisi where you will start a city tour. First, you will visit the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi – the main Georgian Orthodox Church. Next place to visit is the historic district of Metekhi, where the Assumption Church is located. During the day you will also have a chance to enjoy the beautiful architecture of the Bridge of Peace, designed by a well-known Italian architect. Then the cable car will take you to Narikala fortress – the well-known symbol of Tbilisi located on a hill.

Overnight: Hotel in Tbilisi

Meals: B

Day 9

After breakfast you will be transferred to Armenia-Georgia border and after passing the customs “Sadakhlo” you’ll continue your trip in Armenia. Your first stop in Armenia will be in Goshavank Monastery which is located in Gosh village, where the great scholar of the 13th century Mkhitar Gosh lived. You will also drive to beautiful small lake Gosh,



which is surrounded by dense forests. You will continue your tour to Lake Sevan, which is the largest lake in Caucasus as well as one of the largest, and highest freshwater lakes of the world located on 1897m above sea level. After reaching the shore of Lake Sevan you will walk to the top of Sevan peninsula to visit Sevanavank monastery built in 305 A.C. by the daughter of King Ashot Bagratuni - Mariam and during the 9th century became the royal citadel of the Armenian Kings. In the evening you will drive to hotel at lake Sevan for rest and overnight.

Overnight: *Hotel at lake Sevan*

Meals: *B*

Day 10

Leaving the the hotel you will drive to the South-West towards Selim Pass climbing up over 2,410m and following the historic Silk Road and visiting on the way Caravanserai built in 1331. Continuing your way, you will drive to Eghegis State Sanctuary, then you will visit the Fortress of King Smbat located on the top of mountain and built X – XI centuries with high and wide (2-3 m) pyramid type fort-walls and protected by the Artabuni River and deep canyons. From the fortress there is an amazing view to Tsakhats Kar Monastery and magic jeep route connecting it with the Citadel and telling us about the local legends and story about these two historical monuments. Leaving the fortress and monastery you will drive to Sisian town for rest and overnight, en route passing Spandaryan Reservoir.

Overnight: *Hotel in Sisian*

Meals: *B*

Day 11

After breakfast at the hotel you will drive to Tatev Monastery Complex built in 895-906, which is one of the most important Education and Religion Centers situated in medieval Syunik region and is under UNESCO World Heritage Site. On the way you will take Tatev Wings ropeway, which is the longest two-way ropeway of the world and flies above deep Vorotan gorge opening breath-taking views of the Vorotan Canyon (*optional € 10 per person*). Visiting Tatev Monastery you will enjoy Tatev ensemble fitting in perfectly with the mountainous landscape around it. This gives the ensemble an original and majestic appearance. After you will drive to Old Khndzoresk village, where you can visit the canyon of ancient cave residences of the people. On the way you will enjoy surrounding mountainous sights and beautiful city Goris. You will hike to the Old Khndzoresk gorge, while the jeeps will drive to the other side of the Gorge and meet you. Then you will drive to one of the most ancient megalithic constructions of the world called Zorats Karer (Stonehenge). The two-meter pointed blocks last precisely from the south to the north, fencing large territory, in the center they form a correct circle. There is a hypothesis, that Zorats Karer is an observatory built in VI mil. B.C. Scientists have found similar constructions in many areas of Europe. Leaving the Stonehenge cave residences, you will drive back to the hotel in Sisian town.

Overnight: *Hotel in Sisian*

Meals: *B*

Day 12

After breakfast at the hotel you will take off-road rout to drive up to Ukhtasar Mountain. This trip is optional depending on the season. Driving closely to the top of Camel mountain you will hike up to the lake called “Ukhtasar”, enjoy sightseeing and visit one of the unique wonders of the world, rock carvings of Ukhtasar Mountain from pre-historic era. After interesting mountainous excursion, you will drive to Aghavnadzor village where you can explore Armenian village life typical to Vayots Dzor District culture and traditions. After you will drive to Areni Village to visit Areni Wine Factory, where you will be introduced and degustate different wines made with "Arnei" grape sort. After wine tour you will drive to Ararat Valley and enjoying the panoramic view of Ararat you will reach Yerevan.

Overnight: *Hotel in Yerevan*





Meals: B

Day 13

Transfer to airport, departure



Booking terms and conditions

Once we received your application, confirmed all tour details with you, we will send a deposit invoice. After the deposit of 50-100 euro per person (depending on the tour price) is received, we will start your hotel reservation and other service booking and will send your Tour Voucher with all the trip details.

Payment Terms

After you have booked the tour, it is necessary to make a non-refundable deposit of 50-100 euros, which will provide our coordinators with the possibility to start organizing a trip (hotel reservation, food, transportation, etc.). Final payment could be made after your arrival in Armenia. We reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply the relevant cancellation charges (detailed below) if we do not receive all payments at the due time.

Cancellation of the tour

If you or a member of your group wants to cancel the tour, please, inform our company as soon as possible in writing form. Please, note that the prepayment (50-100 euros) is non-refundable, however, you can use it throughout the year and book another tour. In this case, our company will have to charge an extra 100 euros for re-booking the hotel.

Rights and obligations

Tours provided by our company are planned for many months before its inception and are not the subject of change or cancellation. Under the obligation of forced circumstances (weather, holidays) we can make some changes in the itinerary, however, all that relates to services and attractions will remain unchanged.

Please note, that our tours require a minimum number of participants – 2 persons. We reserve the right to cancel the trip, if any tour will not have the minimum number of participants. We will inform you about the cancellation of the tour no later than 30 days before the start and will do the full refund of the amount paid, including the prepayment.

We also request immediately and promptly report all complaints and any claims during the tour. If possible, all problems will be solved. If the tourist does not report any complaint, the compensation will not be implemented.

Please, also note that the company AraraTour is not liable for services not included in the tour price. Our responsibility is limited only to the extent provided by our tour.

Force majeure or any other event which is beyond our control and which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part frees both parties from liability or obligation. In case of Force majeure, we don't issue any refund.

Insolvency or bankruptcy insurance

Tour operator Arara guarantees the refund of clients' money for unfulfilled services even in the case of company's own insolvency or bankruptcy.

